

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0239

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, IR

SUBJ: US/IRANIAN JOINT COMMISSION: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. DR VAFA, IN THE JAN 9 MEETING WITH US REPORTED SEPTTEL, ALSO REVIEWED IRANIAN DESIRES FOR PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS IN COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION SESSIONS.

2. WE INDICATED TO VAFA THAT THE USG GENERALLY PREFERRED TO HAVE A VISITING DELEGATION PAY ITS FULL COST OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, HOTEL AND LIVING EXPENSES WHILE IN THE HOST COUNTRY, AS WELL AS TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION IN THE CAPITAL. THE HOST GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE CONFERENCE FACILITIES. DR VAFA SAID THIS WAS SATISFACTORY, AND ADDED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT UNDER SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT DELEGATIONS WOULD NOT REPEAT WOULD NOT BE MET AT AIRPORTS NOR WOULD THEY BE SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE HOST CHAIRMEN.

3. WE REACHED AGREEMENT WITH VAFA THAT ANY RECIPROCAL ENTERTAINMENT ARRANGEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE REPEAT COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS SHOULD BE ON A MODEST SCALE (FYI REALIZING THAT THE US SIDE COULD PROBABLY NEVER MATCH WHAT THE IRANIANS OTHERWISE MIGHT HAVE IN MIND). WE POINTED OUT THAT SMALL LUNCHEES OR DINNERS CONFINED ESSENTIALLY TO DELEGATES WOULD ALLOW THE TWO PARTIES TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. DR VAFA AGREED.

4. DR VAFA INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT COMMISSION MEETINGS WERE ANOTHER MATTER AND THAT IRANIANS ATTACHED CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE TO PROTOCOL MATTERS. HE SAID THAT IN ALL OTHER BILATERAL COMMISSION ARRANGEMENTS, THE HOST GOVERNMENT HAD ITS CHAIRMAN  
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RECEIVE THE VISITORS AT THE AIRPORT; THE HOST GOVERNMENT WOULD PUT

THEM UP AT THE HOST GOVERNMENT'S EXPENSES IN THE BEST HOTELS, WOULD PROVIDE AUTOMOBILE TRANSPORTATION, AND OFFER SUITABLE HOSPITALITY (IN THE FORM OF A DINNER HOSTED BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT CHAIRMAN OR ABOVE). IT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT, VAFA ADDED, THAT THE VISITING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BE RECEIVED BY THE CHIEF OF STATE OR HEAD OF GOVERNMENT. FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD BE TAKEN AS A SIGN BY THE IRANIANS THAT THE HOST GOVERNMENT DID NOT ATTACH ADEQUATE SIGNIFICANCE TO THE COMMISSION. FINALLY, THE IRANIANS EXPECTED THAT THE VISITING CHAIRMAN WOULD BE GIVEN APPOINTMENTS WITH CABINET LEVEL OFFICIALS NOT NECESSARILY CONNECTED WITH COMMISSION ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS WITH KEY LEGISLATORS AND OTHER INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN THE HOST COUNTRY.

5. WE EXPLAINED TO DR VAFA SOME OF THE ARRANGEMENTS WE HAD DEVELOPED FOR GREETING AND TAKING CARE OF FOREIGN GUESTS, BUT WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAIL. WE PROMISED TO OBTAIN GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON ON THE POINTS HE HAD RAISED.

6. DR VAFA CONFIRMED HIS PREVIOUS PREFERENCES THAT THE COMMITTEE NOT DISCLOSE TO THE PRESS THE CONCLUSIONS AND PROGRAMS DEVELOPED IN COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND HOLD THEM INSTEAD FOR ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE END OF FORMAL COMMISSION SESSIONS (I.E. IN MARCH). ANY INFORMATION GIVEN TO THE PRESS WOULD BE CONFINED TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE DELEGATION AND SIMILAR NON-SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE WOULD OCCUR WHEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS (MEANING ANSARY IN THE IRANIAN CASE) AGREED THAT SOME SUBSTANCE SHOULD BE DISCLOSED. WE SAID THIS WOULD BE FINE WITH US.

7. LOOKING AHEAD TO THE COMMISSION MEETING IN MARCH, VAFA REVEALED IRANIAN EXPECTATIONS THAT, AT ITS CONCLUSION, THERE MIGHT BE A JOINT STATEMENT OR PROTOCOL SIGNED BY THE TWO CHAIRMEN, AND POSSIBLY A PRESS CONFERENCE. THE PRESS AND TV SHOULD BE PRESENT AT SUCH CONCLUDING CEREMONIES, AS WELL AS AT THE INITIAL PART OF THE OPENING PLENARY. THIS WOULD BE THE FORMAT FOR THE COMMISSION SESSION IN IRAN ALSO.

8. THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON THE POINTS RAISED BY DR VAFA SHOULD BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SINCE IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE EMBASSY TO BEGIN A PROCESS OF CONDITIONING THE IRANIANS TO EXPECT SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THEY HAVE BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO WITH OTHER

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COMMISSION PARTNERS RE PAYMENTS FOR HOTEL, ETC.  
MIKLOS

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